

of documented original Tuskegee Airman, United States Air Force Colonel (Retired) Charles E. McGee, to Brigadier General.

McGee was a torchbearer, consistently emphasizing the significance and lasting legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen on the U.S. military and American society. It was the Tuskegee Airmen he said that "right the wrong those that believed Blacks were not able to master sophisticated equipment, that Blacks lacked courage, and that Blacks did not have the wherewithal to fight a determined enemy. It was the Tuskegee Airmen that ended up with a stellar WWII aviation war record and thereby edged the military toward integration and America away from segregation."

Brigadier General McGee and his late wife, the former Frances E. Nelson of Champaign, Illinois, raised three children, became grandparents of ten and great grandparents of many more. He will be greatly missed; however, his legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come. I wish retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee 'high flight.'

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Rollcall vote Nos. 18 through 27.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 18; NAY on Rollcall No. 19; YEA on Roll Call No. 20; NAY on Roll Call No. 21; NAY on Roll Call No. 22; YEA on Roll Call No. 23; NAY on Roll Call No. 24; NAY on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; and YEA on Roll Call No. 27.

HONORING KYLA CLAUSSEN AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kyla Claussen, disability rights advocate and caregiver, as Iowan of the Week.

Kyla is a tireless advocate and clear voice not just for herself, but for the thousands of Iowans who find themselves waiting for assistance through a Medicaid HCBS waiver. Although Kyla lives with an unknown progressive neuromuscular disease that has impacted her lung capacity, mobility, and speech, that has not sapped an ounce of her compassion and dedication.

Kyla is one of over 17,000 Iowans waiting for a waiver to receive home and community-based care through Medicaid. She brings a unique perspective to an all-too-common problem for Iowans living with a disability. Before requiring assistance herself, Kyla had in fact been a caregiver for over a decade. While Kyla is no longer able to work as a caregiver, I know this hasn't taken away her compassion and drive to make sure everyone—no matter who—can live in their home, their community,

and achieve their fullest. Her unending commitment to others and service to her community, whether as a caregiver or fighter for disability rights, embody the values that make me proud to be an Iowan.

You can find evidence of Kyla's commitment wherever you look. If you ask her friends and fellow advocates at Iowa Upgrade Medicaid, she's been called "the researcher" for her ability to dig into and digest disability laws in Iowa and around the Midwest. And just this past fall, Kyla was able to use her story to call attention to the need for better home and community-based services as part of a roundtable discussion with the White House. I am incredibly proud to see Iowa so well-represented in Kyla, and I am glad that more folks had a chance to hear her story.

But Kyla's story doesn't stop there. Kyla lives in Avoca, Iowa with the kittens she's fostering—she has four right now, but it's been more in the past—and her service dog in training, Ed. Whenever Ed notices that Kyla's breathing has flagged, he's trained to start barking. Then, according to Kyla, her mission becomes getting him to stop. That's a good boy.

I know that our laws have failed in protecting and providing for our disability community. I have heard so many personal stories of how our existing programs are woefully inadequate, unable to address the most basic needs for those who are not able-bodied. Gaps in our local, state, and federal system have mired the disability community with red tape and bureaucracy to receive the most basic level of assistance. The issues facing our friends, family, and neighbors with a disability are profound, and the current systems are antiquated. I am proud to have supported legislation to address these problems, however much of this legislation remains stalled. I will not stop supporting and advocating to ensure we treat those with a disability with respect, humanity, and kindness.

I am humbled by Kyla's ability to use her diagnosis as a springboard for change and her genuine concern for her friends, community, and fellow Iowans always shines through. I am grateful to be able to share her story here in Washington, and I am privileged to be able to celebrate her as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING ALABAMA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our local law enforcement.

Across our country, police officers are under fire. They are being killed, attacked and targeted.

These brave men and women who serve their local communities help keep us safe, but the liberals continue to push to defund the police.

I am sick of it.

President Biden and the left's anti-police policies have led to a crimewave across our nation. Last October, three Alabama police officers were shot in less than 24 hours. Last May, Alabama officers were injured in a shoot-

ing. And last week, an Opelika Police officer was hit by a fleeing suspect.

We are a country of law and order and I implore my colleagues to stand up for those who protect us and back the blue.

THOMAS TERRELL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Texas-Twenty-Fourth Congressional District, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Thomas Terrell, Captain, United States Marine Corps, of Southlake, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Terrell was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961 and served until 1967. Terrell served several tours in Vietnam, to include at Chu Lai, Dong Ha, Phu Bai, and Quang. At Dong Ha Combat Base in 1967, Terrell and his fellow Marines came under an intense enemy artillery attack, during which Terrell moved three wounded Marines to safety and maneuvered under enemy fire to assess and check upon the welfare of his Marines during the attack. Terrell was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device denoting valorous actions as well as the Purple Heart.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Mr. Terrell has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. Mr. Terrell holds several ministerial roles in local churches, taught for several years at the Happy Hill Christian Academy, and is a member of the Texas Real Estate Commission's Broker-Lawyer Committee.

Mr. Terrell's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE: TAMMY MEMBREÑO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRIO ACTION YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Tammy Membreño on the occasion of her 30 years of service as Executive Director of Barrio Action Youth & Family Center.

As an immigrant from El Salvador, Tammy Membreño, has devoted her life to improving the quality of life for youth and their families because she understands the impact of limited economic resources and education on low-income families. During her college years, she began volunteering at Barrio Action and in 1991 she embraced the opportunity to become their Executive Director.

Barrio Action was established to empower young people to succeed both academically